News Release

CITIZENS CONTINUE TO ACCESS FREE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AT RAPIDLY INCREASING RATE

Little more than a year ago the public was downloading free Government information at the rate of 2 million documents per month through the award-winning GPO Access online service. That number continues to grow with over 6.5 million documents retrieved during September 1997 and nearly 8.2 million during October 1997.

Such items as the Congressional Record, Federal Register, the Code of Federal Regulations, congressional bills, and a growing list of government documents are available on the same day of publication. Most are available in both ASCII text and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF), which allows a user to view and print exact facsimiles of the printed version of these documents.

Responding to the growing use of the free Access service, head of the Government Printing Office Public Printer Michael F. DiMario said, ''One of the basic tenets of American democracy is that our people be informed of the activities of their Government. With information available electronically at no cost, it is very rewarding to see this goal being achieved in such a dramatic way.''

GPO Access was created by an Act of Congress in 1993 and went online in June 1994. The service has earned several honors, including the Federal Technology Leadership Award and a James Madison Award sponsored by the Coalition of Government Information.

The services of GPO Access can be reached by a wide variety of means to ensure availability to all levels of users:

★ Users with World Wide Web access can reach GPO Access at: (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su—docs)

★ Users with WAIS client software and an Internet connection can search any of the databases. They can contact the GPO Access User Support Team for source file information (below)

★ Users can telnet to swais.access.gpo.gov and login as guest

★ Users with a modem can dial in to 202–512–1661 and login as guest

★ Users can also reach GPO Access through one of the more than 40 depository library gateways located throughout the country

★ Users without a computer or an Internet connection can reach and retrieve documents by going to one of the approximately 650 Federal Depositories offering public access workstations able to connect to GPO access. As capabilities increase, this number will expand to include all depository libraries. There are nearly 1,400 depository libraries nationwide, with at least one in each congressional district. Library locations are available from the GPO Access User Support Team (below)

The GPO Access User Support Team is another useful feature of the service. Assistance is available on Federal business days between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.s.t., by:

★ E-Mail: gpoaccess@gpo.gov

★ Telephone: 202-512-1530 or toll free at 888-293-6498

★ Fax: 202-512-1262